

## Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 NSC-05 /065 W

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R 290906Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SEC AF WASHDC/OS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8637

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 4079

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, NL, XG

SUBJ: VISIT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE TO EUROPE

REF: YOUR MSG 271531Z JUL 76

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES VISIT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE REED SEPT. 7 AIRA WORKING OUT DETAILS OF THE VISIT WHICH WILL BE COMING THROUGH AF CHANNELS SEPTTEL.
2. AS WASHINGTON AGENCIES ARE AWARE, GON SETS GREAT STORE IN BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AFFORDED BY HIGH-LEVEL VISIT SUCH AS THIS AND WE ANTICIPATE DUTCH OFFICIALS WILL WISH TO MAXIMIZE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTERESTS IN DEPTH.
3. WITH RESPECT TO AWACS, WE WISH TO REINFORCE EARLIER REPORTING ABOUT DUTCH SENSITIVITIES ON THIS ISSUE. SECRETARY REED'S VISIT WILL COME AT JUST ABOUT THE TIME WHEN THE GON WILL BE PUTTING THE FINAL TOUCHES ON THE 1977 BUDGET FOR SUBMISSION TO PARLIAMENT MID-SEPTEMBER. CURRENT PROCESS OF TAILORING BUDGET TO RESPOND TO SEVERE ECONOMIC PRESSURES HAS PRODUCED HEIGHTENED SENSITIVITIES AND SORE POINTS AMONG DUTCH OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING PROCESS AND WITHIN THE CABINET.

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4. DUTCH REFUSED TO HOST VISIT OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY

OF DEFENSE SHIELDS AND DOD AEW BRIEFING TEAM ALTHOUGH  
THEY DID SEND SOME LOWER LEVEL OFFICIALS TO PARTICIPATE  
IN BRIEFING IN US EMBASSY. DUTCH MOD HAS RECENTLY REFUSED  
PROPOSED VISIT OF A-10 IN LATE SEPT '76, SO AS TO AVOID ANY  
INFERENCE ABOUT POSSIBLE FURTHER GOM WEAPONS PURCHASES.

5. WE BELIEVE OUR PREVIOUS REPRESENTATIONS ON AWACS IS WELL  
AS DR. SHIELDS' BRIEFING TEAMS VISIT (THE HAGUE 1944 NOTAL)  
AND DEPUTY SECRETARY ELLSWORTH'S VISIT (THE HAGUE 1977 NOTAL)  
PLUS THE STUDIES AND ANALYSES THAT HAVE BEEN PASSED AT WORKING  
LEVEL AIRA TO RNLAf HAVE PROVIDED A FAIRLY COMPLETE PICTURE  
OF AWACS PROGRAM. DUTCH HAVE NOT , HOWEVER, SO FAR COME TO  
ANY DECISION ABOUT PARTICIPATION. IN OUR OPINION OPTIMUM  
TACTICAL APPROACH WOULD BE LOW-KEY MENTION OF THE PROGRAM  
WITH STRESS ON DEMONSTRATED ADVANTAGES OF THIS SYSTEM FOR THE  
NATO COUNTRIES.  
BROWN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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